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SEP 01 2006

Attorney docket HAN 130

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A document management system for limiting user access to a registered document, comprising:

a first storage means for registering a document to be accessed; and

a second storage means for registering access controlling information,

~~including a specific character string and identification data for specifying said access controlling information, wherein said identification data is added to said document if said document includes said specific character string, and~~

wherein said access controlling information comprises one or a plurality of access controlling information records, and each access controlling information record contains a specific character string and identification data for specifying the access controlling information record; and

wherein, when registering a certain document in said first storage means or when setting the access control to a document which has already been registered in said first storage means, a search is performed to check whether or not the document includes said each specific character string contained in said access controlling information which has already been registered in said second storage means, and if said specific character string is included in the document, said identification data for specifying said access controlling information record containing the specific character string is added to the document; and

wherein access to said document registered in said first storage means is limited in accordance with contents of said access controlling information record corresponding to the said identification data, when the access to said document is thereafter requested, if said document contains said added identification data.

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2. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said access controlling information further includes information indicating how the access to said document is limited and, when the access to said document is requested, the access is defined by referring to said information indicating how the access is limited.
3. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein it is defined whether or not said document includes said specific character string at one of a time when said document is registered, a time when said access controlling information is registered, and a time when the access to said document is requested.
4. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said access controlling information further includes information to specify a person to be permitted to access with limitation.
5. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said access controlling information further includes a valid term during which the access is limited.
6. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said access controlling information is provided in a single record comprising a plurality of fields, including ID information for identifying said record, and said ID information is added to the document for relating said access controlling information to the document.
7. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 5, wherein said access controlling information is provided in a single record comprising a plurality of fields,

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including ID information for identifying said record, and said ID information is added to the document for relating said access controlling information to the document.

8. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 4, wherein said access controlling information is provided in a single record comprising a plurality of fields, including ID information for identifying said record, and said ID information is added to the document for relating said access controlling information to the document.
9. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 4, wherein said access controlling information further includes a valid term during which the access is limited.
10. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said access controlling information is provided in a single record comprising a plurality of fields, including ID information for identifying said record, and said ID information is added to the document for relating said access controlling information to the document.
11. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said access controlling information further includes a valid term during which the access is limited.
12. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said access controlling information further includes information to specify a person to be permitted to access with limitation.

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13. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 2, wherein said access controlling information is provided in a single record comprising a plurality of fields, including ID information for identifying said record, and said ID information is added to the document for relating said access controlling information to the document.
14. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 2, wherein said access controlling information further includes a valid term during which the access is limited.
15. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 2, wherein said access controlling information further includes information to specify a person to be permitted to access with limitation.
16. (Previously Presented): A document management system according to Claim 2, wherein it is defined whether or not said document includes said specific character string at one of a time when said document is registered, a time when said access controlling information is registered, and a time when the access to said document is requested.
17. (new): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said access controlling information consists of the one or a plurality of access controlling information records.
18. (new): A document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the user access consists of user viewing, printing, and copying to a medium, of the document stored in the first storage means, and wherein access control includes inhibiting user viewing, printing, copying and/or modification of a part or all of the document.

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